Australian Bureau of Statistics

6291.0.55.003 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, Feb 2007 (Revised Methodology)

Summary

Main Features

As part of this release, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has introduced an improved method of estimation for the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The new method, known as composite estimation, is more efficient than the current estimation method. That is, the composite estimator achieves a given level of standard error at lower cost than the current estimator.

This new estimation method has been introduced with the release of May 2007 labour force statistics in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0). The ABS has also released **Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets** (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001) with estimates back to April 2001 revised based on the new estimation method. Also as part of this release, to harmonise our labour force statistics, LFS has re-released **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), with data up to April 2007, and **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) with data up to February 2007. The estimates back to April 2001 in these products have been revised based on the new estimation method. These products will then be released again on 14 June 2007 with May 2007 data.

Further information about the change in estimation method for LFS and any likely impacts, is provided in **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics** (cat. no. 6292.0) which was released on 21 May 2007.

Please Note: This new product comprises the quarterly series previously released under **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the **6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Main Features** are relevant to both releases.

About this Release

As part of this release, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has introduced an improved method of estimation for the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The new method, known as composite estimation, is more efficient than the current estimation method. That is, the composite estimator achieves a given level of standard error at lower cost than the current estimator.

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A range of quarterly Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

Explanatory Notes

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Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

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Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

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Standard Errors

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Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error** (SE). New models for calculating standard errors for these estimates were introduced in June 2007 and apply to estimates from the LFS from April 2001 onwards.

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To determine if an item has a relative standard error of 25% or more, in SuperTABLE, right click in the centre of the table, select annotate cells - standard annotations, and select 'Annotate RSE cut-off values'.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in the paper **Labour Force Survey Standard Error, 2005** (cat. no. 6298.0).

State	Feb 78 to Sep 82	Oct 82 to Aug 87	Sep 87 to Aug 92	Sep 92 to Aug 97	Sep 97 to Mar 01	From April 2001		
						Employed	Unemployed	NILF
NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	5.3	5.9	4.9	5.7	5.9
Vic.	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.9	4.8
Qld	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.4
SA	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.7	2.5
WA	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.9	2.8	2.3	3.0	2.9
Tas.	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.3
NT	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.4	2.4	1.8
ACT	2.0	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.3
Aust.	4.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.9	4.7	5.3

Capital City/Balance of State	Sep 87 to Aug 92	Sep 92 to Aug 97	Sep 97 to Mar 01	From Apr 01
Sydney Major Statistical Region	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.0
Balance of New South Wales Major Statistical Region	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.0
Melbourne Major Statistical Region	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.2
Balance of Victoria Major Statistical Region	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.1
Brisbane Major Statistical Region	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.5
Balance of Queensland Major Statistical Region	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.7
Adelaide Major Statistical Region	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.1
Balance of South Australia Major Statistical Region	2.0	2.5	2.2	2.0
Perth Major Statistical Region	2.5	2.9	2.6	2.5
Balance of Western Australia Major Statistical Region	2.5	2.9	2.8	2.3

Regions	Sep 92 to Aug 97	Sep 97 to Mar 01	From Apr 01
Sydney Major Statistical Region	5.3	5.7	5.0
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney Statistical Regions	4.3	4.4	6.8
Inner Sydney Statistical Region	4.1	3.8	7.2
Eastern Suburbs Statistical Region	3.2	2.4	8.1
St George-Sutherland Statistical Region	3.3	1.7	6.2
Canterbury-Bankstown Statistical Region	2.9	2.9	6.1
Fairfield-Liverpool and Outer South Western Sydney Statistical Regions	4.0	4.3	6.3
Fairfield-Liverpool Statistical Region	3.0	4	6.3
Central Western Sydney Statistical Region	3.4	2.2	6.7
North Western Sydney Statistical Region **(1)**		3.1	6.1
Outer Western Sydney Statistical Region	3.6	3.1	
Blacktown-Baulkham Hills Statistical Region	2.5		
Lower Northern Sydney Statistical Region	4.9	3.2	6.6
Central Northern Sydney Statistical Region **(2)**		3.0	6.1
Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Statistical Region	3.8		
Northern Beaches Statistical Region	2.2	2.1	6.6
Gosford-Wyong Statistical Region	4.0	2.3	6.2

(1) Formerly Outer Western Sydney Statistical Region & Blacktown
(2) Formerly Hornsby - Ku-rin-gai Statistical Region & Baulkham Hills

Regions	Sep 92 to Aug 97	Sep 97 to Mar 01	From Apr 01
Balance of New South Wales Major Statistical Region	5.3	5.7	5.0
Hunter Statistical Region	4.5	4.0	6.0
Newcastle Statistical Region Sector	4.1	3.6	5.9
Illawarra and South Eastern Statistical Regions	4.1	4.6	6.5
Illawarra Statistical Region	3.6	3.8	6.8
Wollongong Statistical Region Sector	2.7	2.4	6.4
Illawarra excluding Wollongong			7.6
South Eastern Statistical Region			6.0
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast Statistical Regions	5.0	5.5	6.4
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West Statistical Regions	5.0	5.1	6.3
Murray-Murrumbidgee Statistical Region	4.9	5.7	6.4
Melbourne Major Statistical Region	4.6	4.6	4.2
Outer Western Melbourne Statistical Region	2.9	3.0	4.8
North Western Melbourne Statistical Region	3.0	3.5	5.2
Inner Melbourne Statistical Region	3.5	3.2	6.0
North Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region	3.6	2.8	5.1
Inner Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region	3.2	3.0	4.9
Southern Melbourne Statistical Region	4.2	2.5	5.0
Outer Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region	3.7	3.0	5.2
South Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region	3.4	3.6	4.9
Mornington Peninsula Statistical Region	3.4	2.7	5.0
Balance of Victoria Major Statistical Region	4.6	4.3	4.1
Barwon-Western District Statistical Region	4.1	4.1	5.0
Central Highlands-Wimmera Statistical Region	4.7	4.4	5.5
Loddon-Mallee Statistical Region	4.2	4.7	5.2
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray Statistical Region	4.2	4.5	5.8
All Gippsland Statistical Region	4.7	4.0	5.6
Brisbane Major Statistical Region	3.5	3.7	3.5
Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region	2.4	3.8	4.4
Brisbane City Outer Ring Statistical Region	2.5	3.4	4.2
South and East BSD Balance Statistical Region	2.8	3.3	4.5
North and West BSD Balance Statistical Region	2.7	2.6	4.0
Balance of Queensland Major Statistical Region	3.6	4.3	3.7
South and East Moreton Statistical Region	2.4	3.3	4.5
North and West Moreton Statistical Region	2.8	3.2	4.5
Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Region	3.1	3.7	4.7
Darling Downs-South West Statistical Region	2.9	3.0	4.8

Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Region	2.9	3.7	4.3
Northern-North West Statistical Region	2.6	3.4	4.8
Far North Statistical Region	3.3	4.1	5.1
Gold Coast City Parts A and B Statistical Region Sectors			4.7
Adelaide Major Statistical Region	2.4	2.4	2.1
Northern Adelaide Statistical Region	2.0	1.9	2.5
Western Adelaide Statistical Region	2.0	1.6	2.7
Eastern Adelaide Statistical Region	2.2	1.5	2.5
Southern Adelaide Statistical Region	1.9	1.8	2.5
Balance of South Australia Major Statistical Region	2.5	2.2	2.0
Northern and Western SA Statistical Region	2.4	2.4	2.8
Southern and Eastern SA Statistical Region	2.0	2.2	2.3
Perth Major Statistical Region	2.9	2.6	2.5
Central Metropolitan Statistical Region	1.9	1.4	3.3
East Metropolitan Statistical Region	2.0	2.1	3.0
North Metropolitan Statistical Region	2.2	1.9	2.9
South West Metropolitan Statistical Region	2.1	1.9	2.8
South East Metropolitan Statistical Region	2.1	2.5	3.1
Balance of Western Australia Major Statistical Region	2.9	2.8	2.3
Lower Western WA Statistical Region	2.4	2.6	2.6
Remainder-Balance WA Statistical Region	2.5	3.2	3.0
Greater Hobart-Southern Statistical Region Sector	1.9	1.1	1.1
Greater Hobart Statistical Division	0.7	0.6	1.0
Southern Satistical Region Sector			1.7
Balance of Tasmania			1.2
Northern Statistical Region Sector	1.1	1.1	1.4
Mersey-Lyell Statistical Region Sector	1.2	1.1	1.4